



SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Delta Regional Office (serving Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi)
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USDA TO GATHER DATA ON BEE COLONY LOSS

Jackson, MS – In April, U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will reach out to Bee and Honey Producers across United States to collect information for its' Quarterly Colony Loss report. Each quarter, Colony Loss surveys monitor health of Beekeeping in the Delta Region of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. By gathering data on colony loss, NASS can better determine an official estimate of effects of Colony Collapse Disorder in each state.

"Recent challenges in Bee and Honey industry brought on by Colony Collapse Disorder have caused concern for our national food and crop security," said Esmerelda Dickson, State Statistician, Mississippi State Office, Delta Region. "Mississippi depends greatly on bees as crop pollinators for cotton, soybeans, and other cash crops."

In Mississippi, NASS surveys approximately 45 Beekeepers. By participating, these producers ensure NASS provides timely, accurate and objective data which all sectors of U.S. Bee and Honey industry can depend on to help make sound business decisions. Accurate information helps reduce uncertainty and provides more reliable facts on bee colony health.

Information provided by respondents for all NASS surveys is confidential by law. NASS safeguards privacy of all responses and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring no individual operation or producer can be identified.

NASS will publish survey results in its' annual Honey Bee Colonies Report on August 1, 2017. This and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, please call NASS Delta Regional Office at (800) 327-2970.

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NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

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